

Wm Johnston Esq

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Vol. I.

THE
African Intelligencer.

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THE
AFRICAN INTELLIGENCER.

PROSPECTUS.

THE events which have already grown out of the partial development of the enlarged system of African benevolence, so lately and so happily conceived in this country, begin to create a deep and fervid glow of interest, and excite inquiry in all classes of the American community. The means of information on these topics have hitherto been commensurate, neither with the actual demand of the public, nor with the importance of engaging in the great work, the general co-operation of our citizens.

The annual reports of the Society, the only separate vehicle of this species of intelligence hitherto employed, can never be expected to disseminate the requisite information throughout the nation, both from the moderate size which an official document must always sustain—from the long intervals which must intervene between the periods of its appearance—and the limited number of copies which the Society will ever be able to throw into circulation. The mass of interesting intelligence, both in this country

and from the coast of Africa, to which the progress of colonization must give rise, will, from this time, accumulate more rapidly, and the public solicitude to receive it seasonably, in a regular and authentic shape, necessarily be much greater than ever before.

These considerations have suggested the utility of publishing periodically, an *authenticated Summary of African Intelligence*, and *regular Journal of the proceedings* of the American Colonization Society.

Arrangements have been made to procure from the Managers of the Society at Washington, for insertion in this journal, all their future addresses to Auxiliaries, and to the public—their official documents—extracts from their correspondence abroad; and all papers of general interest to the community.

The contents of the *Intelligencer*, by a natural distribution, will be arranged under three distinct heads.

The First, of **GENERAL INTELLIGENCE**, will embrace such notices of Africa, and its inhabitants,

including the geography, natural history, and productions of the former, the physical and moral character, history, and present condition of the latter, as will present to readers a distinct, and extensive view of the great objects to which the exercise of African philanthropy may be most profitably directed.

The second division will be devoted to articles explanatory of the history, nature, and consequences of the SLAVE TRADE, and the means employed for suppressing it—with a journal of the current operations of our own, and European governments, to effect its entire annihilation.

The Third Division of the Journal will be occupied exclusively in recording and detailing the *history, proceedings, and correspondence* of the AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY, at home and abroad.

It is confidently hoped that the public generally, and the officers and members of the different Auxiliary Colonization Societies throughout the United States, particularly, will not only patronize the African Intelligencer, but avail themselves of the information they shall derive from it, more effectually to further the great objects of their association.

THE AFRICAN INTELLIGENCER.

VOL. I.

WASHINGTON, JULY, 1820.

No. 1.

General Intelligence.

Geographical Sketch of Africa.

THE extent of Africa is greater than that of Europe, and its population more numerous than of the continent of America. It derived its original inhabitants from the immediate posterity of Noah, and was probably peopled soon after the confusion of tongues. Its greatest extent, from the Cape of Good-Hope, in lat. 34 50, south, to Cape Serrat, 37 18, north, is 4990 miles; and its greatest breadth, from Cape Verd in 15 deg. 30 W. Long. to Cape Guardafui 51 deg. E. is 4600 miles. Africa is a vast peninsula separated from Asia, by the Isthmus of Suez, formed by the approach of the extremities of the Mediterranean Sea, and Arabian Gulf [the Red Sea of Scripture]—and resembles in shape a prostrate pyramid, having the Mediterranean Sea for the boundary of its base, the Indian and Atlantic Oceans on its two sides—and declining gradually south, terminates in the Cape of Good-Hope.

The language spoken on the northern coast is a dialect founded on the Arabic, in which is preserved whatever literary monuments are now extant. With the Mahometan religion, the language of Arabia is likewise extended far into the interior of the conti-

ment, and down the Western Coast, as far as about the sixteenth degree of North Latitude. From this point, which is the latitude of Cape Verd, and about 150 miles north of Sierra Leone, the Soosoo language, remarkable for its softness and musical cadences, prevails. Many of the surrounding tribes use a dialect of this language.

In Egypt, besides the Arabic, a corrupted dialect of the ancient Coptic, is still retained by the descendants of the original inhabitants. The Abyssinians have a dialect formed on the ancient Ethiopic. With these exceptions, the innumerable tribes of the interior, and of South Africa, use a great variety of barbarous and imperfect languages, which can be traced to no common origin, and present few analogies between themselves.

The great natural features of Africa are, the Nile, which rises near the centre of the continent, about lat. 8 deg. north, and pursues a northern direction through Abyssinia, and Egypt to the Mediterranean.—The Niger, which has its rise in the mountains near the Western Coast, and pursues an eastern course through a fertile country beyond the limits of European research. The Mountains

Jibbel Kumra (or, of the Moon) which take their rise near Cape Verd, and stretch eastward, according to Dr. Morse's conjecture, a distance of 2830 miles, dividing the whole continent almost equally. In the Western extremity of this stupendous range, all the considerable rivers of West Africa have their sources. Mount Atlas runs parallel to the Kumra, at a distance of 20 degrees to the north, and reaches from the neighbourhood of the Nile quite to the Atlantic Ocean, west—forming the southern boundary of the states of Barbary. By far the greater part of the interior of Northern Africa is an arid and inhospitable desert, equally destitute of soil, water and inhabitants. From the kingdom of Morocco to the mouth of the Senegal, this desert, which has the name of Sahara, reaches quite to the coast; which throughout this whole extent, is rendered for ever uninhabitable. At the Senegal commences a fertile country, which till the slave trade began its depopulating ravages, sustained an abundant population. Thence to the sixteenth degree of south latitude, the soil is exuberantly prolific, and the native tribes numerous. The southern extremity of Africa has a more temperate climate, but a less productive soil, and a thinner population. The eastern coast, as far as explored, appears to yield neither in the quality of its soil, nor the number of its inhabitants, to the western.

The population of Africa cannot be estimated with any probable accuracy. Hassel states it, we know not on what authority, at 93,945,000.

"The knowledge of the an-

cients," says Dr. Morse, "respecting Africa, except the parts bordering on the Mediterranean, was ever very imperfect. Their descriptions, obscured by the changes, and various spelling of names, and the frequent revolutions of states, have laid the foundation for much controversy, which it is not important here to be further noticed. Herodotus, anciently, and major Rennell, and many travellers, and missionaries, of science and intelligence, too numerous to name, in modern times, have made important advances in exploring this large section of the globe. In the following description, the best authors, not a few, and the best maps down to the present time, have been faithfully consulted, and the information they contain, wrought into it. The great extent of Africa, the number of small disconnected states, into which it is divided, and their wide distance from each other, render it difficult to form any general classification of its contents."

The geography of Africa is commonly pursued under the following divisions: 1. *Northern Africa*. 2. *Western Africa*. 3. *Southern Africa*. 4. *Eastern Africa*. 5. *Central Africa*.

NORTHERN AFRICA,

Includes Egypt, and the states of Tripoli, Tunis, Algiers, and the kingdom of Morocco. This division of Africa was subdued and overspread by the early followers of Mahomet; and receiving from them its character, religious, political and moral, with the loss of Christianity, sunk to a state equally removed from civilization and absolute barbarism, in which it remains to the present day.

WESTERN AFRICA

Comprehends all that portion of the western coast, together with the country as far interior as has yet been accurately explored, included between the southern limit of the kingdom of Morocco, about 28 deg. N. and Cape Negro in the latitude of St. Helena, 16 deg. S. The extent of this coast, without including its smaller indentations, cannot be less than 4,000 miles. It is accessible at almost every point; and presents in general, a country gradually elevated according to the distance from the ocean.

From this line of coast have been procured the victims of that detested commerce which for nearly three centuries, has indirectly proved, scarcely less the scourge of Europe and America, than of Africa herself.

The most common divisions of Western Africa are the territories on the Sengal and Gambia, the Ivory, Gold, and Slave Coasts, of Guinea, Benin, Benguela, and Congo. The earliest European establishments on this coast were the Portuguese trading stations. The French, Dutch, and Danes, have likewise at different periods occupied a number of posts, and participated in the lucrative commerce to which the productions of the country, and the traffick in slaves has given rise. All these stations, with the exception of two or three on the coast of Guinea, belonging to Denmark, it is believed, have now either passed into the hands of the English, or been given up. The native tribes inhabiting Western Africa are incredibly numerous.

[To be continued.]

The African Slave-Trade.

IN this and the subsequent numbers of the *Intelligencer*, will be given a compendious history of the origin, and progress of this species of commerce, from the earliest period of authentic history to the present day. This statement will be drawn from the best authorities which our means of information supply. Particular attention shall be bestowed on that part of it which relates to the extent of the trade, immediately before the recent national measures for its suppression began to operate. Having brought the history of the slave-trade down to this most interesting era, we shall exhibit a complete, but comprehensive view of the subsequent progress of public sentiment, and legislation, in relation to it, both in Europe and America. In these sketches will be presented the history of one

of the most remarkable, as well as happiest changes which have ever occurred in the policy and morality of national governments. The philanthropist needs not be informed, that all the civilized powers in the world have now either prohibited, or furnished to each other a sacred pledge to prohibit, within a specified period, the future prosecution of the slave-trade by their respective subjects. It will be seen by the acts of Congress, passed May 15th, 1820, [see p. 31,] that the future prosecution of this commerce by American citizens, is made piracy, and punishable with death. The great work of abolishing this commerce is therefore virtually accomplished. Consequently the articles which are to follow under this head of our journal, are, nappily, too late, to claim the merit of aiding in it;

but the information they contain is too important to be withheld, and too interesting not amply to compensate every American citizen for the perusal.

—
Origin of the Slave-Trade.

“The commerce of the human species was of a very early date. It was founded on the idea that men were *property*; and, as this idea was coeval with the first order of *involuntary* slaves, it must have arisen in the first practices of barter. The story of Joseph, as recorded in the sacred writings, whom his brothers sold from an envious suspicion of his future greatness, is an ample testimony of the truth of this conjecture. It shows that there were men, even at that early period, who travelled up and down as merchants, collecting not only balm, myrrh, spicery, and other wares, but the human species also, for the purposes of traffick. The instant determination of the brothers, on the first sight of the merchants, to *sell him*, and the immediate acquiescence of those who purchased him for a foreign market, prove that this commerce had been then established, not only in that part of the country, where this transaction happened, but in that also, whither the merchants were then travelling with their camels, namely, Egypt: and they show further, that, as all customs require time for their establishment, so it must have existed in the ages, previous to that of Pharaoh; that is, in those ages, in which we fixed the first date of *involuntary* servitude. This commerce, then, as appears by the present instance, existed in the earliest practices of barter, and

had descended to the Egyptians, through as long a period of time, as was sufficient to have made it, in the times alluded to, an established custom. Thus was Egypt, in those days, the place of the greatest resort; the grand emporium of trade, to which the people were driving their merchandise, as to a centre: and thus did it afford, among other opportunities of traffick, the *first market* that is recorded, for the sale of the human species.

“This market, which was thus supplied by the constant concourse of merchants, who resorted to it from various parts, could not fail, by these means, to have been considerable. It received, afterwards, an additional supply from those piracies, which we mentioned to have existed in the uncivilized ages of the world, and which, in fact, it greatly promoted and encouraged; and it became, from these united circumstances, so famous, as to have been known, within a few centuries from the time of Pharaoh, both to the Grecian colonies in Asia, and the Grecian Islands. Homer mentions Cyprus and Egypt as the common market for slaves, about the times of the Trojan war. Thus Antinous, offended with Ulysses, threatens* to send him to one of these places, if he does not instantly depart from his table. The same poet† also, in his hymn to Bacchus, mentions them again, but in a more unequivocal manner, as the common market for slaves. He takes occasion, in that hymn, to describe the pirates’ method of securing the coast, from the cir-

* Hom. Odyss. L. 17. 448. † L. 26.

† Exodus, Ch. 1.

cumstance of their having kidnapped Bacchus, as a noble youth, for whom they expected an immense ransom.

"It may not perhaps be considered as a digression, to mention in a few words, by itself, the wonderful concordance of the writings of Moses and Homer with the case before us: not that the former, from their divine authority, want additional support, but because it cannot be unpleasant to see them confirmed by a person, who, being one of the earliest writers, and living in a very remote age, was the first that could afford us any additional proof of the circumstances abovementioned. Egypt is represented, in the first book of the sacred writings, as a market for slaves, and, in the second, as famous for the severity of its servitude. The same line of Homer, which we have already referred to, conveys to us the same ideas. It points it out as a market for the human species, and by the epithet of "*bitter Egypt*," (which epithet is peculiarly annexed to it on this occasion,) alludes in the strongest manner to that severity and rigour, of which the sacred historian transmitted us the first account.

"But to return. Though Egypt was the first market recorded for this species of traffick; and though Egypt, and Cyprus afterwards, were particularly distinguished for it, in the times of the Trojan war; yet they were not the only places, even at that period, where men were bought and sold. The Odyssey of Homer shows that it was then practised in many of the islands of the Ægean sea: and the Iliad, that it had taken place

among those Grecians on the continent of Europe, who had embarked from thence on the Trojan expedition. This appears particularly at the end of the seventh book. A fleet is described there, as having just arrived from Lemnos, with a supply of wine for the Grecian camp. The merchants are described also, as immediately exposing it to sale, and as receiving in exchange among other articles of barter, "*a number of slaves*."

"It will now be sufficient to observe, that, as other states arose, and as circumstances contributed to make them known, this custom is discovered to have existed among them; that it travelled over all Asia; that it spread through the Grecian and Roman world; was in use among the barbarous nations, which overturned the Roman empire; and was practised therefore, at the same period, throughout all Europe."

The extract which follows is from a letter published without the sanction of the writer's name, or that of his correspondent. But the facts related, so perfectly accord with the known state of things in Western Africa, as to leave no doubt of the veracity of the whole statement.

Extract of a letter from Cape de Verd Islands.

"Villa de Praya, St. Jago, May 29, 1820.

"The slave-trade which has been carried on to such an alarming extent the last year, has received an important check by the arrival of the United States' ship of war Cyane, captain Trenchard, on this station, who entirely cleared the coast of every slaver on the 17th ultimo. Though he had the good fortune to capture a

great number of slave vessels, yet they were, mostly, so completely covered with Spanish papers, that he, though reluctantly, suffered them to proceed south of the line, after taking out the Americans. and has manned four prizes which he ordered to New-York.

“England has been endeavouring with redoubled energy to suppress the horrible traffic in slaves the last year; and although her squadron have rendered great service in the cause of humanity, yet nothing has had such an effect on the slavers, as the arrival of a single American ship of war.

“The following are the English vessels of war on this station, viz: ship *Tartar*, sir George R. Collier, who arrived in December last; *Pheasant*, captain Kelly; *Myrmidon*, captain Leeke; *Morgiana*, captain Sundiland; brigs *Thistle*, lieut. Hagan, and *Snapper*, captain —; all under the command of commodore Collier, who proceeded the other day to Princess Island to destroy a nest of slavers at that place. He will return to England. Great mortality has raged in the squadron, and the *Snapper* has lost her captain, first lieutenant surgeon, and most of the other officers, captain Strong, late commander of the *Morgiana*, has been promoted, and returned to England.

“It is a fact too notorious, that scarce a vessel proceeds to the coast for slaves, but what is wholly or in part owned in America.

“The manner in which most of the slavers carry on the trade is this: they sail from the United States to some port in Cuba, with a cargo of blue and white cottons,

India checks, nankin, powder, muskets, tobacco, &c. where they make a sham sale of the vessel for the purpose of procuring a set of Spanish papers, and the officers make oath that the cargo, entitled to debenture, has been landed, and procure the requisite certificates, when every article remains untouched on board. They then take on board a Spaniard, who passes for the captain, but perhaps his first voyage to sea, hoist the Spanish flag, and proceed to the coast of Africa, north of the line, keeping three log books, two in Spanish, one true and the other false, and one in English; on arrival the supercargo lands with the goods, under cover of the guns of the vessel, on the beach, in huts erected for the purpose, and sends circulars to all the neighbouring kings, acquainting them of his arrival, and that he has a handsome assortment of goods which he wishes to dispose of for slaves, in a given number of days. They immediately flock to his depot with their slaves, which they exchange for goods, at the usual rate of 100 bars per head; in the mean time the vessel is preparing rice, wood, and water. and when the slaves are collected, they are all embarked in one day, and the same night the vessel puts to sea, and if not captured during the first night generally succeeds in getting off. Their next plan is to arrange the log book to be produced in Cuba, which must shew that the slaves were shipped south of the line, and the vessel with her cargo is then admitted to entry. When overhauled by the English or Patriot privateers, ex-

hibit American papers ; and when by the Americans, Spanish papers ; by which many escape capture and condemnation.

“ When captain Trenchard left the coast the rains had set in, and about half the Cyane’s crew were seized with the African fever, few of which died ; but since their arrival here, they have recovered in a wonderful degree, having but one man dangerously ill in the hospital, a proof of the healthiness at this place.

“ A Moor who arrived at the Gambia from Tombuctoo, reports that Doctor Darket, who was attached to the expedition to explore the interior of Africa, but who was disgusted at the tardy operations of Major Gray, and left the expedition with about twenty followers, had arrived at Tombuctoo, where they were all seized, stripped and held as slaves.”

Extract of a letter from the Rev. Mr. Bacon to a gentleman in Philadelphia, dated Sierra Leone, 10th March, 1820.

We arrived here on the 9th, at 4 P. M. had, generally, a pleasant passage ; have been sick, but are all well and in high spirits now. We were only twenty-eight days from soundings to soundings ; we have had considerable intercourse with the Sierra Leoneans, and find a general sentiment in our favour.

The slave-trade is driving on at a bloody rate, all along the coast, except here, and down the Sherbro country. Vessels are every week brought in and condemned here, having fifty, one hundred, two hundred, or more slaves on board. We have the most favourable account of the Sherbro

country and its people. The white population of this place is thin, and hold all the offices of any importance. The coloured settlers seem to be a happy people, growing in prosperity : indeed this seems to be a thriving place. This town (Freetown) is thronged with native Africans, either Timanys, or Kroomen. They are as naked as nature, with the exception of a cloth cap, or hat, on the head, and a cloth or handkerchief about the loins : they are a fine, athletic, hardy, strong, useful race of people. The Timanys I am not unable to speak of with accuracy, further than that they are said to be a factious and dishonest race ; their country is up the Sierra Leone River. But of the Kroomen I can say more. By looking at your map you will find between Cape Mesurado and Cape Palmas, two thirds the distance from the former, a place called Settra Kroo, that is at least 400 miles from Sierra Leone. The Kroomen come all the way along shore with their canoes up to this place : here they have a town, where they live and accommodate themselves, and labour for about four dollars per month ; they occasionally return to see their families, and carry home their money. When they have got a Krooman’s competency, they retire upon it and enjoy it with their wives and children. They are a faithful, honest, kind people, and without them the Sierra Leoneans could not live. “ We no bring our wives and children here ; we come for get money enough, and go to Settra Kroo again,” is their language to us. Would not Settra Kroo be a noble place for a missionary station ? “ Krooman

kill." They are covered with tatooed devices, and have "plenty" of sophies, gree-grees and charms about them: a hog's or leopard's tooth, a smooth bone, a little bag about the ear, &c. John Me, the first that came to us, on hearing our evening prayers, and a word of exhortation from a coloured man, said, after listening attentively for a moment, "He speaks for God!" I asked him if he went to church; his reply was, "all for go to church when he mind to." I asked "do you sabby [know] God?" His reply was given with such a self-confident air, as I have seen in the manner of many a "*moralist*," who expects his *morality to save him*. I was at a loss for a moment, to determine whether the *heathen* had learned from the *moralist*, or the *moralist* from the *heathen*; but another moment solved the doubt, *both* learned it from the *Devil*. You may depend on it there is work for us here; there is work for missionaries; for good men of all grades. I save a corner for a later date, and stop for this moment.

I add, after a ramble in the Kroo Village—I am struck with wonder at the appearance of native Africans. The sickly and depressed countenance of a Philadelphia coloured man is not to be seen amongst them. A noble aspect, a dignified mien, a frank, and open, and wild man's demeanour! Sir, it is worth a voyage to Africa to see the Kroomen. I was present at one of their amusements, not unlike a sort of play or opera—speaking accompanied by a pleasant music on a kind of shepherd's pipe; there were more than 100 present, seat-

ed on the ground in a circle—the speakers and actors in the centre. I could not understand them. I was there again, beginning to puzzle myself in the mazes of speculation about the origin of this. I could almost persuade myself that they were becoming fast *civilized*, as *theatrical amusements* seem to indicate a state of civilization above the savage life. I suppose the play I saw, and those performed in Philadelphia, have the one about as much religion as the other.

Adieu my dear friend; the Lord bless us and you. S. BACON.

The Captain of the British sloop of war Pheasant, after the capture of the slave-ship Nova Felicidale, gives the following account of the cargo.

"The state in which those unfortunate creatures were found, is shocking to every principle of humanity—seventeen men shackled together in pairs by the legs, and twenty boys were on the other side in the main hold, a space measuring eighteen feet in length, seven feet eight inches in main breadth, and one foot eight inches in height, and under them the yams for their support. One of these unfortunate creatures was in the last state of dysentery, whose natural evacuations ran involuntarily from him amongst those yams, creating an effluvia too shocking for description. On their being released from irons, their appearance was most distressing—scarcely one of them could stand on his legs, from cramp and evident starvation. The space allowed for the females, thirty-four in number, was even more contracted than that for the men, measuring only nine feet four inches in length, four feet eight inches in main breadth, and two feet seven inches in height, but not being confined in irons, and perhaps allowed during the day to come on deck, they did not present so distressing an appearance as the men."

American Colonization Society.

The Address of the Managers of the American Colonization Society, and the documents which follow it, it is hoped, will form a forcible appeal to the hearts and understanding of every American reader. On the effect of this appeal, and the immediate exertions of the friends of colonization and the Agents of the Society, must greatly depend the importance and success of the second outfit to the coast, now preparing.

Address to the Auxiliary Colonization Societies and the People of the United States :

The Board of Managers of the American Colonization Society have received, by the return of the Elizabeth from Africa, letters from their agent and the people who went out in that vessel, containing most gratifying and interesting intelligence of their arrival and reception in that country.

They are greatly encouraged by these communications to persevere in their object. Success now seems no longer doubtful. The soil, climate, and productions of the country will afford a healthy and comfortable subsistence ; the favourable disposition of the natives, and the previous settlement, at Sherbro, of a number of free coloured people under Mr. Kizell, give us every reason to hope for the security of the establishment ; and the well-directed and zealous efforts of our government to carry into execution, the law for the suppression of the slave-trade, ensure every necessary protection.

The period is now arriving when the Society purpose to send out one or more vessels, to carry to the settlement a number of the free people of colour of this country ; a considerable number of whom are anxiously waiting to avail themselves of such an opportunity. Already the number of applicants exceeds, considerably, the accommodations of a single ship ; and frequent and pressing applications are still continually occurring.

As most of these persons must not only be supported during their voyage, but will require, for a time, many articles to contribute to the comfort of the settlement, a considerable and immediate supply of funds will be necessary.

The friends of the Society, in many places, have already given liberally ; but our expenditures have been necessarily great. The

magnitude of the object and the evident prospect of success, will, we hope, induce its friends every where, to come forward at this important juncture, and render that prompt and effectual aid which the emergency demands.

When we present to the view of the American public the establishment of free coloured people on the land of their forefathers, transported thither from this, and settled and supported by the benevolence of our citizens, we trust we cannot appeal in vain for the continuance of their liberality. The progress of such a work cannot fail to excite an increasing interest. The patriot will hail it as promising the highest blessings he can hope for his country, and the heart of the philanthropist will exult at the wide prospect of happiness it presents; while the christian, with the superadded impulse of diffusing among all around him the light and the hope in which he glories, will thank God that he is permitted to be a co-worker in such a cause.

The letters subjoined, will show the various articles that are wanted for the settlers; and donations in such goods will be thankfully accepted from those who may not have it in their power to give money on this occasion.

The different Auxiliary Societies throughout the United States, are respectfully solicited to collect and send on their supplies of money to Richard Smith, Esq. Treasurer of this Society, at the Branch Bank, Washington, and to hold the donations they may receive in goods and other articles, until it is ascertained from what port the vessel will sail.

* We beg leave to conclude by particularly addressing ourselves to the Rev. Clergy of the United States of all religious denominations, from whose interest and influence we cannot help expecting, with confidence, considerable assistance.

We would respectfully request them to consider, in all its bearings, the object we present to them, and its probable consequences; to give to their respective congregations, information on this subject, and to solicit and collect for the Society, whatever their means may enable them to give. A ready and important addition to our funds, we have no doubt, might thus be made, perhaps with more ease than in any other way. A small sum from each congregation in the United States would enable us to redouble our exertions. Whatever they may thus collect, they will please to remit as above directed.

By order of the Managers,
E. B. CALDWELL, Cor. Sec.

Letter from Mr. Samuel A. Crozer to E. B. Caldwell, Esq. Secretary of the American Colonization Society.

River Sherbro, March 31, 1820.

SIR,

Having received my appointment as first agent of the Colonization Society, to reside on the coast of Africa, on the seventeenth of January, 1820, I immediately made the requisite preparations, and proceeded to New-York, where I received instructions to appropriate the funds in that place, (except one thousand dollars remitted from the city of Washington,) to "the providing of the necessary presents to the natives, and for making preparations for the comfortable establishment and subsistence of the first colonists who shall need the aid of the Society." They amounted to fourteen hundred and forty-eight dollars and fifty cents, which I endeavoured to dispose of to the best advantage that the shortness of the time would admit of, in procuring articles which, according to the best information I could obtain, were the most suitable for the purpose, and which, together with the goods received by donations, were put on board the ship Elizabeth, captain Sebor, bound to the coast of Africa, in which I embarked on the sixth of February in the character of physician. After a passage of thirty days we arrived at Sierra Leone. Governor McCarty was absent in the country, but returned on the Saturday evening following; and, considering the danger of making any delay, we determined to make our communications on the following day, when, with the letter of the Hon. B. Washington, I despatched the ensuing letters to his excellency:

"SIR—Having arrived as officiating physician on board the ship Elizabeth, as stated in the communication of the Rev. Samuel Bacon, Principal Agent of the United States for providing for liberated Africans, I beg leave to inform your excellency, that I am authorized by the Colonization Society to select and purchase a suitable site on the western coast of Africa, on which to colonize those free people of colour of the United States, who may be desirous of settling there; and to take charge of the government of the colony when established. A contract having been entered into by the Princes, Headmen, &c. of Sherbro, to furnish land for the proposed colony, if it meet with the views of the Society to establish it there, I am instructed in the first instance to direct my attention to that country, and if it should not answer their expectations, to the most eligible situation that can be procured on the coast. The United States having appointed agents to provide an establishment for liberated Africans, the Society conceive it will be mutually advantageous, to fix upon the same local position; and that concert between the agents of both parties, will contribute to the advancement of their several objects. I have presumed to make this statement to your excellency that my future proceedings may be properly apprehended by the officers of the government of Sierra Leone,

whose friendship and co-operation, in meliorating the unhappy condition of the much injured Africans, we ardently desire to obtain; and which, from the friendly and polite attention, shown to the former agents of the Society, we have every reason to expect. It is believed that a colony at Sherbro, will be of material advantage to that at Sierra Leone; the proposed colony being intended as far as possible to be an agricultural establishment, will, it is believed, considerably enhance the commercial interests of the colony at Sierra Leone; and that many advantages will arise from the mutual succour and support, which it will be in their power to render each other."

To develop as candidly as possible the views of the Society, the second letter was as follows:

"SIR—Should the colony, proposed to be established by the Colonization Society, be located in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, I beg leave to propose, with a view to a mutual good understanding, that neither colony shall employ, or grant lands or other privileges, to the citizens of the other, without the approbation of their respective governments: An arrangement of this kind will effectually prevent any unpleasant interference with the interests of each other."

The foregoing letter was written with some hesitation, fearing lest I should encroach on the Society; yet it was with the approbation of Mr. Bacon, and a conviction that it was relinquishing nothing which the constitution of the Society called for. These communications were received respectfully by his excellency, who invited us to dine with him the next day, when he received us with the utmost politeness, and tendered his services. Being chagrined and worn out with unavoidable delays, Mr. Bacon purchased a small armed schooner for the purpose of unlading the ship, and we sailed for Sherbro on the seventeenth of March. Mr. Bankson had previously been sent to confer with Mr. Kizell, who has resided in the Sherbro country almost constantly, since Messrs. Burgess and Mills left the coast; we met him on the passage, and he informed us that Mr. Kizell had agreed to furnish us with house-room and storage, until we could find other accommodations. We anchored the next day in the river Sherbro, twenty-five miles from Campe-lar (the name of Mr. Kizell's place,) where we landed our goods as soon as possible. We have not yet held a palaver with the chiefs, but I have no doubt of their cheerfully granting us land, although there is a trifling alarm among them owing to false impressions, that we are the enemies of Mr. Kizell, &c. Mr. Kizell is staunch as a rock in our favour; he had not received any information concerning the Society, since the departure of Messrs. Burgess and Mills: he left Sierra Leone soon after their departure, and went down to Sherbro, where he built a little town, and cleared a small spot of ground for our reception. On our arrival he had begun to despair of ever seeing us. Land may be procured on

the coast; and I feel resolved (if it be the will of the Society,) whatever may occur, not to leave the coast until a satisfactory station is procured. It is not now in my power to render any definite information concerning the face of the country, not having hitherto been able to make other than superficial observations and not desiring to give a hasty opinion; but the land appears very fertile, it produces fruit of all kinds in the greatest abundance, and no doubt will produce almost every thing that can satisfy or gratify the real or artificial wants of man, with half the labour that they can be produced in the United States. This is my opinion from the little observation which I have had an opportunity of making, and this is the least productive season of the year. I have been agreeably disappointed in the temperature of the climate; instead of the burning sands of Africa, I have found the land clothed with the most exuberant vegetation; and instead of the pestiferous Sirocco, pleasant and refreshing breezes: I have not observed the thermometer higher than eighty-five of Farenheit. The water at Campelar (which is the only place in Sherbro at which I have had an opportunity of trying it) is not good; it is by no means unwholesome, but is highly impregnated with iron, and a very small portion of sulphur; but I understand there is fine water at the situation we have in view for the colony. The river Sherbro in which we now lie, I am satisfied is navigable for a ship of at least four hundred tons as far as the Bagroo: further I have not had an opportunity of ascertaining, but have been informed that there is bold water up that river as far as the Meno; but the pilots here appear to have but very little knowledge of the channel, and if they chance to run aground immediately attribute it to the shifting of the banks. The most proper articles of trade in this place, are tobacco (which ought to be of the longest leaves that can be procured, even though it should cost treble the sum that short leaved can be procured for,) pipes, rum, or whiskey of the most common kind, blue baftas, gun-powder, trade-guns, assorted knives, Dutch looking-glasses, gilt jewelry, gaudy handkerchiefs, iron pots, showy beads, common chairs, painted with high colours and ornamented in the most gaudy manner, together with toys of various kinds. These articles are all highly necessary, and will command any thing in Africa. I am aware that it was not the intention of the Society to use rum; but it is absolutely necessary until we obtain proper footing in the country; the natives will do nothing without it, and the withholding it might entirely cut off the future usefulness of the Society. Mr. Kizell made the following observations on this subject, requesting me to transmit them to the Society—"That a child could not be weaned from the breast of its mother immediately—and the poor natives of Africa cannot be torn at once from the use of ardent spirits, but must be gradually weaned." This he thinks is the only effectual method of conquering that propensity; he also thinks that the best method of preserving their attachment will be to keep a small vessel

on the coast to trade with them; their articles of trade are palm oil, rice, ivory, cam-wood, bees-wax, honey, gold-dust, leopard skins, &c.

I offer the following observations, not with the presumption to advise, but simply as ideas which have occurred to me, and which no doubt have been already considered by the Society. It is my opinion, that the object of the Society may be accomplished, even with very slender funds; but great prudence and judgment are necessary.

That nothing must be done without mature deliberation, but every thing must be done in season. That it will not be prudent to suffer many to emigrate, until the colony obtains a substantial footing, lest it should be overwhelmed before it is organized. That the greatest discrimination should be exercised in selecting the emigrants. That no emigrant should be admitted into the colony without a certificate signed by some person duly appointed by the Society. That an epitome of the regulations of the colony should be drawn up and printed, and presented to every emigrant before his leaving America, that he may have no cause of complaint or disappointment. That it will be expedient to provide for every individual a proper allowance of wholesome provisions, and that to be served out with the utmost regularity, but to allow no luxury of any kind whatever, either to the colonists or agents, as they will be a great expense, are useless, and I am convinced by experience, are a continual source of murmuring and discontent. That no more white men than are absolutely necessary to transact the business of the Society should be admitted into the colony. That two agents will be amply sufficient to transact that business at present. That no man will be useful as an agent here, except he possess sterling talents, extensive and versatile knowledge, and a willingness to sacrifice every thing to the welfare of the colony. That the agents ought to be governed by strict regulations, and instructions as definite as possible, so as not to leave too much to their own discretion, and yet not to cramp them in their operations. That the Society should keep the government of the colony strictly in their own hands until it be thoroughly organized—And until that be the case, not to suffer any regulations to be passed by the agents or colonists which are not necessary on account of localities. Lastly, that a code of laws and regulations shall be forwarded as soon as possible. And, if these measures are pursued, I feel sanguine of success.

We found it necessary on our arrival here to send to Sierra Leone, to purchase rum, tobacco, and trade-guns. Owing to our accounts being considerably entangled, and Mr. Bacon not having come to any arrangement with me, it is impossible at present to render an account of the manner in which I appropriated the funds entrusted to my charge, but it shall be done by the next opportunity. I am sensible that I ought to have made a report be-

fore leaving New-York, but, having deferred it until the day of our departure, I was prevented by indisposition. I have endeavoured in the foregoing lines, to throw together without any kind of system, such information as I conceived would be most acceptable to the Society and in our present situation is the best that I can render. We have many difficulties before us, but they, comparatively speaking, vanish into nothing; let nothing deter the Society from persevering in a vigorous pursuit of their object, the Lord will prosper it, and may he direct you.

Yours, respectfully,
SAMUEL A. CROZER.

Campelar, Sherbro Island, 22d March, 1820.

HON. BUSHROD WASHINGTON,

SIR—I desire to return you and the Board of Managers of the Colonization Society, my grateful thanks for the confidence you and they repose in me; I have received your letter and people. I thank you for the first and will take care of the last. Africa is wide and long—Africa is fertile and healthy—Africa is afflicted—“Rachel mourneth for her children,” and “will not be comforted till they come home.” Send more, and more, and more. I wish you could see our sons and daughters growing up by our sides, tall, and healthy, and strong; you would say, “surely it is a goodly land.” You must not slack your hand. You must strive to send my brethren home. You must not mind the talk of those coloured people in your own country who oppose you. They are ignorant of our climate, and soil, and fruit, and cattle. It may be, they are wicked too, some of them, and do not wish their “Zion well.” You must not listen to the words of those white persons who try to stop free people of colour from coming over. They are blind, sometimes, perhaps. You cannot send too many. Let them come and sit down in our valleys, and on our hills, and near our rivers, and all the country will soon break forth into a song. The Sherbro country is full of meat, and fish, and bread, and oil, and honey. Send us people to eat them.

I thank you for the present. It is very useful and very beautiful. The people will stop at Campelar till the palaver is over, and land bought and cleared, and houses built. It may be the women and children will stay till the rains are over. This place is healthy. A good sea-breeze always cools us, night and day. God bless you. I can say all in one word—God bids you “colonize.” I know it is God’s will. God has sent me here and set me down to make a place for my brethren. I say, God has taken up the matter, and you must go on, my father, and work with Him in this great work. Farewell, fear not: I say, God will stand at your back and look over

your shoulder and see that no ill comes in your path. He bids you go on. Faith leads and God helps. Farewell: I say, "colonize."

Your friend,
JOHN KIZELL.

The following are Extracts from a few Private Letters.

We all unite in morning and evening prayer in church, and have happy seasons. We must build a church, as the one we have is too small. It is delightful to witness the desire of these natives to learn. We shall have glorious labours here. As we sit in church, sometimes, every alternate one on the male side is a naked man or boy. They cannot speak or understand English, but always say "Amen," and never fail to sing the tune with us.

Well, we are in Africa, the gloomy veil that intercepts your view from us has been passed by us, and we look back and wonder we ever thought it so difficult and dangerous an enterprize. Mr. Kizell begs you not to spare or slacken your hand. It is fixed that Africa must be colonized, and that colonizing will be the only means to stop the slave-trade. Go on, I say, on the authority of Mr. Kizell: there is a mild climate, a good soil, and perfect security for settlers, notwithstanding the slave-trade. I say perfect security: on these heads I shall ere long hope to speak from experience and observation.

I advise, in case of vessels coming hereafter to this place, that all larger vessels, viz. such as draw more than seven feet water to come to an anchor about six or seven miles from the Plantains towards the Sherbro. Anchorage is good, and any vessels may come down thus far. A pilot will be needed, which can be had by coming to anchor off Cape Sierra Leone, and sending up to Freetown; or, by sending some small craft down to Campelar. The former is most adviseable. Having anchored at the distance of six miles from the Plantains, send your jolly boat down shore past Jenkins to Campelar, and the small craft will go up. I would not advise now, that vessels should pass the bar off the Mendo Trees, as the Elizabeth did. It is only three and a half fathoms and full of shoals. Stay further up towards the Plantains. If you come with a small vessel your pilot can bring you down to Campelar. The above advice is predicated on the existing state of things; but I am clearly of opinion a frigate may come to Campelar. It will be proper to sound, and find, and buoy the channel. There is always a fair northwester to come down. The only way to get back is by taking advantage of the tides, a chance east wind, or beating back; which latter cannot be safe till your channel is well-known and marked. Grant, Davies, father and son, and Anderson are good pilots. We

propose soon to have Sherbro Sound explored, and all its shoals buoyed.

The water at Campelar is chalybeate, highly so. It is nothing but sea-water, as it rises and falls with the tide, passing through a bed of iron ore and sand banks. It is black and disagreeable; but the healthiness of this spot is attributed to the sea-air, and the quality of the water.

There is great room for missionaries here—every town ought to have one. Missionaries should all know something of medicine, and have a chest: they should have farming utensils, and know how to use them, also mechanical instruments. To preach, teach, and cultivate are to be united. Send us help—let the current of missionary zeal be turned towards this country. God forbid Africa should be placed behind India by Americans.

Mr. Kizell gives us a hearty reception. He has a church lighted with two lamps, has a pulpit, bible, and hymn book for it. Preached himself once a week, and had prayers morning and evening in it before we came. He is a truly pious man—very liberal. Only two deaths have taken place in his town since he has had it settled, and one of them by lightning. It has a constant sea-breeze. His people are all healthy and happy. I never was healthier—never was happier. The Lord landed with us. It was a season of joy. Mr. Kizell wept with joy. It would rejoice your soul to be in Campelar church. Natives and Americans all joining together in praising God. It was worth a voyage across the ocean to see.

We have had several of the subordinate chiefs—such as Bongo's brother, Sherbro's nephew, old William Ado's son, and others to see us. They all said they hear the people are coming, and they came down to see if it was true.

When I speak of naked people, it is always to be understood that they wear something about their loins: the women and men sit on opposite sides in church.

This island is fertile, its shores, washed by the sea and cooled by its waves, are healthy. We shall go up to the Bagroo this fall to lay out a town, if the kings grant us a place.

Expenditures on account of the American Colonization Society.

Donations and Subscriptions to American Colonization Society.

Expenses incurred in sending a messenger to Winchester, Do. of Messrs Mills and Burgess, the agents of the Society, on their mission, while in England, France, and Africa, Paid Mr. Burgess on account of his salary,..... Do. his expenses after his return to America,..... Mr. Mills' father, part payment of his salary,..... Rev. Mr. Meade, agent for the Society, his expenses to Georgia, &c.,..... Do. do. to the eastward,..... Amount of sundry bills for printing,..... E. B. Caldwell's account for moneys paid for postage and travelling expenses,..... Isaac M'Kim, interest on money advanced by him,..... Jacob Leonard for silver mounting for presents,..... Wm. I. Stone for engraving for do.,..... Amount paid in N. York, for the supplies sent to Africa,.... Do. Norfolk, do.,..... Expenses of the agents in New-York, &c.,..... Amount paid Sereeno Taylor, his charge as agent for the Society,..... The following sums paid R. Ralston, esq. Philadelphia, Cash paid Samuel A. Crozer, agent of the Society for his expenses,..... Advances to the colonists and other expenses in tra- velling to N. York,..... Discount on \$300 at 4 per cent.,.....	15 00 3,327 71 1,133 33 3 4 33 200 00 500 00 234 00 1,489 75 380 21 129 62 28 70 11 00 1,558 50 951 72 642 92 150 00	Subscriptions and donations received principally in the Dis- trict of Columbia,..... From Vermont auxiliary society,..... Do. Newburyport do. Mass.,..... Do. New-York, do.,..... Do. Baltimore, do.,..... Do. Frederick county, do. Va.,..... Do. Maryland, do.,..... Do. Harper's Ferry, do.,..... Do. the yearly meeting of Friends held in Guilford, North- Carolina, 11th Mo. 1819,..... Do. Chapel Hill auxiliary society, N. C.,..... Do. South-Carolina, do.,..... The following subscriptions received by R. Ralston, Esq. Pa. Wm. I. Stone for engraving for do.,..... Amount collected in Philadelphia,..... Do. Raleigh auxiliary society, N. C.,..... Do. Rockingham, do. Virginia,..... Do. Putnam, do. Georgia,..... Do. collected in Portsmouth, N. H. by T. Upham,....	2,674 64 140 00 100 00 69 00 3,475 81 676 09 1,916 13 100 00 800 00 50 00 500 00 393 80 1,995 87 90 00 400 00 150 25 14,031 50 2,479 76
Balance,.....	2,479 76	Do. donations from the city of N. Y. in cash and goods, 250 garments for Africans, received from the ladies of Fre- derick county, Virginia,..... 418 do. and other articles for do. received from the ladies of Georgetown, D. C.,..... Donations in cash and goods from the town of Norfolk,....	484 95
Balance,.....	14,031 50		
Balance brought down,.....			2,479 76

An act in addition to the acts prohibiting the slave-trade. Passed March 3d, 1810.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized, whenever he shall deem it expedient, to cause any of the armed vessels of the United States to be employed to cruize on any of the coasts of the United States or territories thereof, or of the coasts of Africa, or elsewhere, where he may judge attempts may be made to carry on the slave-trade by citizens or residents of the United States, in contravention of the acts of Congress prohibiting the same; and to instruct and direct the commanders of all armed vessels of the United States to seize, take, and bring into any port of the United States, all ships or vessels of the United States wheresoever found, which may have taken on board, or which may be intended for the purpose of taking on board, or transporting, or may have transported any negro, mulatto, or person of colour, in violation of any of the provisions of the act, entitled "An act in addition to an act to prohibit the importation of slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States from and after the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight, and to repeal certain parts of the same," or of any other act or acts prohibiting the traffick in slaves, to be proceeded against according to law. And the proceeds of all ships and vessels, their tackle, apparel, and furniture, and the goods and effects on board of them which shall be so seized, prosecuted, and condemned, shall be divided equally between the United States and the officers and men who shall seize, take, or bring the same into port for condemnation, whether such seizure be made by an armed vessel of the United States or revenue cutter thereof. And the same shall be distributed in like manner as is provided by law for the distribution of prizes taken from an enemy. *Provided,* That the officers and men to be entitled to one half of the proceeds aforesaid shall safe keep every negro, mulatto, or person of colour, found on board any ship or vessel so seized, taken, or brought into port for condemnation, and shall deliver every such negro, mulatto, or person of colour, to the marshal of the district in which they are brought, if into a port of the United States, or, if elsewhere, to such person or persons as shall be lawfully appointed by the President of the United States in the manner hereinafter directed, transmitting to the President of the United States, as soon as may be after such delivery, a descriptive list of such negroes, mulattoes, or persons of colour, that he may give directions for the disposal of them. *And provided further,* That the commanders of such commissioned vessels do cause to be apprehended and taken into custody, every person found on board of such vessel so seized and taken, being of the officers or crew thereof, and him or them convey, as soon as con-

veniently may be, to the civil authority of the United States, to be proceeded against in due course of law in some of the districts thereof.

SECT. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to make such regulations and arrangements as he may deem expedient for the safe-keeping, support, and removal beyond the limits of the United States, of all such negroes, mulattoes, or persons of colour, as may be so delivered and brought within their jurisdiction; and to appoint a proper person or persons, residing upon the coast of Africa, as agent or agents for receiving the negroes, mulattoes, or persons of colour delivered from on board vessels seized in the prosecution of the slave trade by commanders of the United States' armed vessels.

SECT. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That a bounty of twenty-five dollars be paid to the officers and crews of the commissioned vessels of the United States, or revenue cutters, for each and every negro, mulatto, or person of colour, who shall have been as hereinbefore provided, delivered to the marshal or agent duly appointed to receive them. And the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and required to pay, or cause to be paid, to such officers and crews or their agent, the aforesaid bounty, for each person delivered as aforesaid.

SECT. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That when any citizen or other person shall lodge information with the attorney for the district of any state or territory, as the case may be, that any negro, mulatto, or person of colour, has been imported therein, contrary to the provisions of the acts in such case made and provided, it shall be the duty of the said attorney forthwith to commence a prosecution by information, and process shall issue against the person charged with holding such negro, negroes, mulatto, mulattoes, person or persons of colour, so alleged to be imported contrary to the provisions of the acts aforesaid. And if, upon the return of the process executed, it shall be ascertained, by the verdict of a jury, that such negro, negroes, mulatto, mulattoes, person or persons of colour, have been brought in contrary to the true intent and meaning of the acts in such cases made and provided, then the court shall direct the marshal of the said district to take the said negroes and mulattoes or persons of colour, into his custody for safe-keeping, subject to the orders of the President of the United States; and the informer or informers who shall have lodged the information, shall be entitled to receive, over and above the portion of the penalties accruing to him or them by the provisions of the acts in such case made and provided, a bounty of fifty dollars for each and every negro, mulatto, or person of colour, who shall have been delivered into the custody of the marshal; and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and required to pay, or cause to be paid, the aforesaid bounty, upon the certificate of the clerk

of the court for the district where the prosecution may have been had, with the seal of office thereto annexed, stating the number of negroes, mulattoes, or persons of colour so delivered.

SECT. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be a duty of the commander of any armed vessel of the United States, whenever he shall make any capture under the provisions of this act, to bring the vessel and her cargo for adjudication into some of the ports of the state or territory to which such vessel so captured shall belong, if he can ascertain the same, if not, then to be sent into any convenient port of the United States.

SECT. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That all such acts or parts of acts as may be repugnant to the provisions of this act, shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECT. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That a sum not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated, to carry this law into effect.



To the Honourable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

The President and Board of Managers of the American Colonization Society, respectfully represent that, being about to commence the execution of the object to which their views have been long directed, they deem it proper and necessary to address themselves to the legislative council of their country. They trust that this object will be considered, in itself, of great national importance, will be found inseparably connected with another, vitally affecting the honour and interest of this nation, and leading, in its consequences, to the most desirable results.

Believing that examination and reflection will show that such are its connexions and tendency, they are encouraged to present themselves, and their cause, where they know that a public measure, having these advantages, cannot fail to receive all the countenance and aid it may require.

The last census shows the number of free people of colour of the United States, and their rapid increase. Supposing them to increase in the same ratio, it will appear how large a proportion of our population will, in the course of even a few years, consist of persons of that description.

No argument is necessary to show that this is very far indeed from constituting an increase of our physical strength; nor can there be a population, in any country, neutral as to its effects upon society. The least observation shows that this description of persons are not, and cannot be, either useful or happy among us; and many considerations, which need not be mentioned, prove, beyond dispute, that it is best, for all the parties interested, that there should be a separation; that those who are now free, and those who may become so hereafter, should be provided with the means of attaining to a state of respectability and happiness, which, it is certain, they have never yet reached, and, therefore, can never be likely to reach in this country.

Several of the states, deeply interested in this subject, have already applied to the general government; and, concurring in the views of your memorialists, both from considerations of justice towards themselves and humanity to the coloured people, have expressed, to the general government, their desire that a country should be procured for them, in the land of their forefathers, to which such of them, as should avail themselves of the opportunity, might be removed. It has been the one single object of the Society, which your memorialists represent, to effect this end. They have made the most cautious and particular inquiries, as to the practicability of such a plan and its prospects of success, both in this country and in Africa, and they are warranted in declaring, that there are no difficulties which they do not confidently expect will be easily overcome by a moderate exertion of discretion and perseverance.

In this country, and in almost every part of it, they have found a zealous and decided approbation expressed, both in words and deeds, by a vast majority of all classes of our citizens; and this sentiment is continually increasing as the measure becomes more the subject of discussion and reflection. Its importance all admit; and its practicability, though doubted by many at first, is daily less questioned.

The two last reports of the Society, to which your memorialists beg leave to refer, show the success of their mission to Africa, and the result of their inquiries upon that continent. From those it is manifest that a situation can be readily obtained, favourable to commerce and agriculture, in a healthy and fertile country, and that the natives are well disposed to give every encouragement to the establishment of such a settlement among them. Thus, it appears, that an object of great national concern, already expressly desired by some of the states, and truly desirable to all, receiving, also, the approbation of those upon whom it is more immediately to operate, is brought within our reach.

But this subject derives, perhaps, its chief interest from its connection with a measure which has, already, to the honour of our country, occupied the deliberations of the Congress of the United States.

Your memorialists refer, with pleasure, to the act, passed at the last session of Congress, supplementary to the act formerly passed for the suppression of the slave-trade. The means afforded, by the provisions of that act, for the accomplishment of its object, are certainly great; but the total extirpation of this disgraceful trade, cannot, perhaps, be expected from any measures which rely, alone, upon the employment of a maritime force, however considerable.

The profits attending it are so extraordinary, that the cupidity of the unprincipled will still be tempted to continue it, as long as there is any chance of escaping the vigilance of the cruisers engaged against them. From the best information your memorialists have been enabled to obtain, of the nature, causes, and course of this trade, and of the present situation of the coast of Africa, and the habits and dispositions of the natives, they are well assured that the suppression of the African slave-trade, and the civilization of the natives, are measures of indispensable connection.

Such an opinion has been avowed, many years ago, by those best acquainted with this subject, and experience has abundantly confirmed it.

The documents and papers which your memorialists had heretofore the honour of presenting to Congress, and those contained in the late reports of the Society, prove this position.

Since the establishment of the English settlement at Sierra Leone, the slave trade has been rapidly ceasing upon that part of the coast.

Not only the kingdoms in its immediate neighbourhood, but those upon the Sherbro and Bagroo rivers, and others with whom the people of that settlement have opened a communication, have been prevailed upon to abandon it, and are turning their attention to the ordinary and innocent pursuits of civilized nations.

That the same consequences will result from similar settlements, cannot be doubted. When the natives there see that the European commodities, for which they have been accustomed to exchange their fellow-beings, until vast and fertile regions have become almost depopulated, can be more easily, and safely obtained by other pursuits, can it be believed that they will hesitate to profit by the experience? Nor will the advantages of civilization be alone exhibited. That religion, whose mandate is "peace on earth and good will towards men," will "do its errand," will deliver them from the bondage of their miserable superstitions, and display the same triumphs which it is exhibiting in every land.

That such points of settlement would diffuse their light around the coast, and gradually dispel the darkness which has so long enshrouded that continent, would be a reasonable hope, and would justify the attempt, even if experience had not ascertained its success. Although, therefore, much may be effected by the vigilant operations of a well disposed naval force, it is to be feared that much will always remain to be done, until some degree of civilization is attained by the inhabitants of the coast of Africa. The present measures, therefore, for the suppression of the slave trade, if unconnected with others for the improvement of the natives, must be long continued, and the effects produced by them will be partial, tedious, and uncertain; and the least relaxation of this vigilance will revive it.

But those measures, and all others involving expense and labour, may be withdrawn, as soon as these establishments upon the coast become strong enough to participate in the contest against avarice and inhumanity, and shall obtain from their evident advantages over the natives, a proper influence among them. And here your memorialists beg leave, respectfully, to suggest their fears that many of the profligate adventurers in this trade will evade the search of our cruizers by their artful contrivances in disguising their national character. We have reason to believe that the slave ships of other nations assume the flag and character of Americans, to evade the search of British cruizers. Is it not, therefore, to be expected that the act lately passed will often be defeated by American slave ships assuming a foreign flag and character? A careful consideration of this subject has convinced us that all our efforts will be insufficient to accomplish their purposes, unless some friendly arrangement can be made among the maritime powers of the world, which shall leave no shelter to those who deserve to be considered as the common enemies of mankind.

Whether a permission, under any modification, to certain specified ships, or in certain latitudes, to search and seize slave-ships, under our flag, such as Great Britain, and other European powers have mutually given to each other, can be properly granted by our government, we cheerfully leave to the wisdom and justice of Congress to determine. Your memorialists will only express their hope and belief, that your deliberations upon this interesting subject will enable you to discern a way, without any compromise of our national honour, by which our country may be placed among the foremost and most efficient asserters of the rights of humanity. But your memorialists humbly consider, that the colonization of Africa offers the most powerful and indispensable auxiliary to the means already adopted, for the extermination of a trade, which is now exciting, in every country, that just indignation which has been long since felt and expressed in this.

No nation has it so much in its power to furnish proper settlers for such establishments, as this; no nation has so deep an interest in thus disposing of them. By the law passed at the last session, and before referred to, the captives who may be taken by our cruisers, from the slave ships, are to be taken to Africa, and delivered to the custody of agents appointed by the President. There will then be a settlement of captured negroes upon the coast, in consequence of the measures already adopted. And it is evidently most important, if not necessary to such a settlement, that the civilized people of colour, of this country, whose industry, enterprise, and knowledge of agriculture, and the arts, would render them most useful assistants, should be connected with such an establishment.

When, therefore, the object of the Colonization Society is viewed, in connexion with that entire suppression of the slave trade, which your memorialists trust it is resolved shall be effected, its importance becomes obvious and extreme. The beneficial consequences resulting from success in such a measure, it is impossible to calculate. To the general cause of humanity, it will afford the most rich and noble contribution, and for the nation that regards that cause, that employs its power in its behalf, it cannot fail to procure a proportionate reward. It is by such a course that a nation insures to itself the protection and favour of the Governor of the world. Nor are there wanting views and considerations arising from our peculiar political institutions, which would justify the sure expectation of the most signal blessings to ourselves from the accomplishment of such an object. If one of these consequences shall be the gradual, and almost imperceptible, removal of a national evil, which all unite in lamenting, and for which, with the most intense, but hitherto hopeless anxiety, the patriots and statesmen of our country have laboured to discover a remedy, who can doubt, that, of all the blessings we may be permitted to bequeath to our descendants, this will receive the richest tribute of their thanks and veneration?

Your memorialists cannot believe that such an evil, universally acknowledged and deprecated, has been irremovably fixed upon us. Some way will always be opened by Providence, by which a people, desirous of acting justly and benevolently, may be led to the attainment of a meritorious object. And they believe, that of all the plans, which the most sagacious and discerning of our patriots have suggested, for effect-

ing what they have so greatly desired, the colonization of Africa, in the manner proposed, presents the fairest prospect of success. But if it be admitted to be ever so doubtful, whether this happy result shall be the reward of our exertions, yet if great and certain benefits immediately attend them, why may not others, still greater, follow them?

In a work evidently progressive, who shall assign limits to the good that zeal and perseverance shall be permitted to accomplish? Your memorialists beg leave to state, that, having expended considerable funds in prosecuting their inquiries and making preparations, they are now about to send out a colony, and complete the purchase, already stipulated with the native kings and chiefs of Sherbro, of a suitable territory for their establishment. The number they are now enabled to transport and provide for, is but a small proportion of the people of colour who have expressed their desire to go. And without a larger and more sudden increase of their funds than can be expected from the voluntary contributions of individuals, their progress must be slow and uncertain. They have always flattered themselves with the hope, that when it was seen they had surmounted the difficulties of preparation, and shown that means applied to the execution of their design, would lead directly and evidently to its accomplishment, they would be enabled to obtain for it the national countenance and assistance. To this point they have arrived; and they therefore respectfully request, that this interesting subject may receive the consideration of your honourable body, and that the Executive Department may be authorized, in pecuniary and other aid, in such way as may meet your approbation, to extend to this object such as it may be thought to require and deserve.

Your memorialists further request, that the subscribers to the American Colonization Society may be incorporated, by act of Congress, to enable them to act with more efficiency, in carrying on the great and important objects of the Society, and to enable them, with more economy, to manage the benevolent contributions entrusted to their care.

JOHN MASON,	} Committee.
W. JONES,	
E. B. CALDWELL,	
F. S. KEY.	

Report of the Committee to whom was referred, at the commencement of the present session of Congress, so much of the President's Message as relates to the Slave Trade, accompanied with a bill to incorporate the American Society for colonizing the free people of colour.

The committee on the Slave Trade, to whom was referred the memorial of the President and Board of Managers of the American Society for colonizing the free people of colour of the United States, have, according to order, had under consideration the several subjects therein embraced, and Report:—

That the American Society was instituted in the city of Washington, on the 28th of December, 1816, for the benevolent purpose of affording to the free people of colour of the United States the means of establishing one or more independent colonies on the western coast of Africa. After ascertaining, by a mission to that

continent, and other preliminary inquiries, that their object is practicable, the Society request of the Congress of the United States a charter of incorporation, and such other legislative aid as their enterprise may be thought to merit and require.

The memorialists anticipate from its success, consequences the most beneficial to the free people of colour themselves: to the several states in which they at present reside; and to that continent which is to be the seat of their future establishment. Passing by the foundation of these anticipations, which will be seen in the annual reports of the Society and their former memorials, the attention of the committee has been particularly drawn to the connexion which the memorialists have traced between their purpose and the policy of the recent act of Congress, for the more effectual abolition of the African slave trade.

Experience has demonstrated that this detestable traffick can be no where so successfully assailed as on the coast upon which it originates. Not only does the collection and embarkation of its unnatural cargoes consume more time than their subsequent distribution and sale in the market for which they are destined. but the African coast, frequented by the slave ships, is indented with so few commodious or accessible harbours, that, notwithstanding its great extent, it could be guarded by the vigilance of a few active cruisers. If to these be added colonies of civilized blacks, planted in commanding situations along that coast, no slave-ship could possibly escape detection; and thus the security, as well as the enhanced profit which now cherish this illicit trade, would be effectually counteracted. Such colonies, by diffusing a taste for legitimate commerce among the native tribes of that fruitful continent, would gradually destroy among them, also, the only incentive of a traffick which has hitherto rendered all African labour insecure, and spread desolation over one of the most beautiful regions of the globe. The colonies, and the armed vessels employed in watching the African coast, while they co-operated alike in the cause of humanity, would afford to each other mutual succour.

There is a single consideration, however, added to the preceding view of this subject, which appears to your committee, of itself, conclusive of the tendency of the views of the memorialists to further the operation of the act of the 3d of March, 1819. That act not only revokes the authority antecedently given to the several state and territorial governments, to dispose, as they pleased, of those Africans who might be liberated by the tribunals of the United States, but authorizes and requires the President to restore them to their native country. The unavoidable consequence of this just and humane provision, is, to require some preparation to be made for their temporary succour, on being relanded upon the African shore. And no preparation can prove so congenial to its own object, or so economical as regards the government charged with this

charitable duty, as that which would be found in a colony of the free people of colour of the United States. Sustained by the recommendations of numerous societies in every part of the United States, and the approving voice of the legislative assemblies of several states, without inquiring into any other tendency of the object of the memorialists, your committee do not hesitate to pronounce it deserving of the countenance and support of the general government. The extent to which these shall be carried is a question not so easily determined.

The memorialists do not ask the government to assume the jurisdiction of the territory, or to become, in any degree whatever, responsible for the future safety or tranquillity of the contemplated colony. They have prudently thought that its external peace and security would be most effectually guarded, by an appeal, in its behalf, to the philosophy of the civilized world; and to that sentiment of retributive justice, with which all christendom is at present animated towards a much injured continent.

Of the constitutional power of the general government to grant the limited aid contemplated by the accompanying bills and resolutions, your committee presume there can exist no shadow of doubt; and they leave it to a period of greater national prosperity to determine, how far the authority of Congress, the resources of the National Government, and the welfare and happiness of the United States, will warrant, or require its extension.

Your committee are solemnly enjoined by the peculiar object of their trust, and invited by the suggestions of the memorialists, to inquire into the defects of the existing laws against the African slave trade. So long as it is in the power of the United States to provide additional restraints upon this odious traffick, they cannot be withheld, consistently with the justice and honour of the nation.

Congress have heretofore marked, with decided reprobation, the authors and abettors of this iniquitous commerce, in every form which it assumes; from the inception of its unrighteous purpose in America, through all the subsequent stages of its progress, to its final consummation; the outward voyage, the cruel seizure, and forcible abduction of the unfortunate African from his native home, and the fraudulent transfer of the property thus acquired. It may, however, be questioned, if a proper discrimination of their relative guilt, has entered into the measure of punishment annexed to these criminal acts.

Your committee cannot perceive wherein the offence of kidnapping an unoffending inhabitant of a foreign country; of chaining him down for a series of days, weeks, and months, amidst the dying and the dead, to the pestilential hold of a slave-ship: of consigning him, if he chance to live out the voyage, to perpetual slavery, in a remote and unknown land, differs in malignity from piracy, or why a milder punishment should follow the one, than the other crime.

On the other hand, the purchase of the unfortunate African, after his enlargement from the floating dungeon which wafts him to the foreign market, however criminal in itself, and yet more in its tendency to encourage this abominable traffick, yields in atrocity to the violent seizure of his person, his sudden and unprepared separation from his family, his kindred, his friends, and his country, followed by all the horrors of the middle passage. Are there not united in this offence all that is most iniquitous in theft, most daring in robbery, and cruel in murder? Its consequences to the victim, if he survives; to the country which receives him; and to that from which he is torn, are alike disastrous. If the internal wars of Africa, and their desolating effect may be imputed to the slave trade, and that the greater part of them must, cannot now be questioned, this crime, considered in its remote, as well as its proximate consequences, is the very darkest in the whole catalogue of human iniquities; and its authors should be considered as *hostes humani generis*.

In proposing to the House of Representatives, to make such part of this offence as occurs upon the ocean, piracy, your committee are animated, not by the desire of manifesting to the world the horror with which it is viewed by the American people; but, by the confident expectation of promoting, by this example, its more certain punishment by all nations, and its absolute and final extinction.

May it not be believed, that when the whole civilized world shall have denounced the slave trade as piracy, it will become as unfrequent as any other species of that offence against the law of nations? Is it unreasonable to suppose, that negotiation will, with greater facility, introduce into that law such a provision as is here proposed, when it shall have been already incorporated in the separate code of each state?

The maritime powers of the christian world have, at length, concurred in pronouncing sentence of condemnation against the traffick. The United States having led the way in forming this decree, owe it to themselves, not to *follow* the rest of mankind in promoting its vigorous execution.

If it should be objected, that the legislation of Congress would be partial, and its benefit, for a time at least local, it may be replied, that the constitutional power of the government has already been exercised in defining the crime of piracy, in accordance with similar analogies, to that which the committee have sought to trace between this general offence against the peace of nations, and the slave trade.

In many of the foreign treaties, as well as in the laws of the United States, examples, are to be found, of piracies, which are not cognizable, as such, by the tribunals of all nations. Such is the unavoidable consequence of any exercise of the authority of Congress, to define and punish this crime. The definition and the punishment can bind the United States alone.

Extract from "An act to continue in force 'An act to protect the commerce of the United States, and punish the crime of piracy,' and also to make further provision for punishing the crime of piracy." Passed May 15, 1820.

SECT. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That, if any citizen of the United States, being of the crew or ship's company, of any foreign ship or vessel engaged in the slave trade, or any person whatever, being of the crew or ship's company, of any ship or vessel owned in whole or in part, or navigated for, or in behalf of, any citizen or citizens of the United States, shall land, from any such ship or vessel, and, on any foreign shore, seize any negro or mulatto, not held to service or labour by the laws of either of the states or territories of the United States, with intent to make such negro or mulatto a slave, or shall decoy, or forcibly bring or carry, or shall receive such negro or mulatto on board any such ship or vessel, with intent as aforesaid, such citizen or person shall be adjudged a pirate, and on conviction thereof before the circuit court of the United States for the district wherein he may be brought or found, shall suffer death.

SECT. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That, if any citizen of the United States, being of the crew or ship's company of any foreign ship or vessel engaged in the slave trade, or any person whatever, being of the crew or ship's company of any ship or vessel owned wholly or in part, or navigated for, or in behalf of, any citizen or citizens of the United States, shall forcibly confine or detain, or aid and abet in forcibly confining or detaining, on board any such ship or vessel, any negro, or mulatto, not held to service by the laws of either of the states or territories of the United States, with intent to make such negro or mulatto a slave, or shall, on board any such ship or vessel, offer or attempt to sell, as a slave, any negro or mulatto, not held to service as aforesaid, or shall, on the high seas, or any where on tide water, transfer, or deliver over, to any other ship or vessel, any such negro or mulatto, not held to service, as aforesaid, with intent to make such negro or mulatto a slave, or shall land or deliver on shore, from on board any such ship or vessel, any such negro or mulatto, with intent to make sale of, or having previously sold, such negro or mulatto, as a slave, such citizen or person shall be adjudged a pirate, and on conviction thereof, before the circuit court of the United States for the district wherein he shall be brought or found, shall suffer death.



The Constitution of the American Society, for Colonizing the Free People of Colour of the United States.

ART. 1. This Society shall be called, "The American Society, for colonizing the free people of colour of the United States."

ART. 2. The object to which its attention is to be exclusively directed, is to promote and execute a plan for colonizing (with their con-

sent) the free people of colour, residing in our country, in Africa, or such other place as Congress shall deem most expedient. And the Society shall act, to effect this object in co-operation with the general government, and such of the states as may adopt regulations upon the subject.

ART. 3. Every citizen of the United States, who shall subscribe these articles, and be an annual contributor of one dollar to the funds of the Society, shall be a member. On paying not less than thirty dollars, at one subscription, shall be a member for life.

ART. 4. The officers of this Society shall be, a President, thirteen Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Recorder, and a Board of Managers, composed of the above named officers, and twelve other members of the Society. They shall be annually elected by the members of the Society, at an annual meeting on the last Saturday of December, and continue to discharge their respective duties till others are appointed.

ART. 5. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Society, and of the Board of Managers, and to call meetings of the Society, and of the Board, when he thinks necessary, or when required by any three members of the Board.

ART. 6. The Vice-Presidents, according to seniority, shall discharge these duties in the absence of the President.

ART. 7. The Secretary shall take minutes of the proceedings, prepare and publish notices, and discharge such other duties as the Board, or the President, or in his absence, the Vice-President, according to the seniority, (when the Board is not sitting) shall direct. And the Recorder shall record the proceedings, and the names of the members, and discharge such other duties as may be required of him.

ART. 8. The treasurer shall receive and take charge of the funds of the Society, under such security as may be prescribed by the Board of Managers: keep the accounts, and exhibit a statement of receipts and expenditures at every annual meeting, and discharge such other duties as may be required of him.

ART. 9. The Board of Managers shall meet on the first Monday in January, the first Monday in April, the first Monday in July, and the first Monday in October, every year, and at such other times as the President may direct. They shall conduct the business of the Society, and take such measures for effecting its objects as they shall think proper, or shall be directed at the meetings of the Society, and make an annual report of their proceedings. They shall also fill up all vacancies occurring during the year, and make such by-laws for their government, as they may deem necessary, provided the same are not repugnant to this constitution.

ART. 10. Every Society which shall be formed in the United States to aid in the object of this association, and which shall co-operate with its funds for the purposes thereof, agreeably to the rules and regulations of this Society, shall be considered auxiliary thereto, and its officers shall be entitled to attend and vote at all meetings of the Society, and of the Board of Managers.

TERMS.

1. The American Intelligencer shall be published weekly, on a new paper, with a new type, and contain the latest news from all parts of the world. It shall be printed and covered, and be bound in a neat style. The price of the paper, and mailed for those at a distance, is fifty cents a year.

2. Subscribers living in the cities of New-York, Boston, Richmond, and Philadelphia, are to pay punctually of the sixth number of the work. The arrangement is of indispensable necessity, and is of indispensable necessity.

3. Auxiliary societies, and individuals, are to be formed in every city, and upwards, and hold themselves responsible on receiving the sixth number, at the price of two dollars per annum.

4. All orders and communications to be sent to the Editor.

Washington City, July 1, 1826.

Resolved, that the Society approve of the plan proposed by Mr. Ashmun, to publish, in the City of Washington, a new paper, containing the latest news from all parts of the world, and that the Society of the opportunity of making it public through that channel, in the City of Washington, and so as to be conducted with discretion and so as to be of service to the Society.

Washington, July 20, 1826.

TERMS.

1. The AFRICAN INTELLIGENCER shall be printed *Monthly*, on good paper, with a new type, and contain thirty-two pages. The numbers shall be stitched and covered, and delivered to subscribers in the District, and mailed for those at a distance, at TWO DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS a year.

2. Subscribers living in the cities of Baltimore, Philadelphia, New-York, Boston, Richmond, and Charleston, S. C. and the District of Columbia, are to pay punctually *on, or before*, the reception of the sixth number of the work. *All others in advance*. This arrangement is of indispensable necessity, and can in no case be departed from.

3. Auxiliary Societies and individuals who order twelve copies, and upwards, and hold themselves responsible for the amount, payable on receiving the sixth number, shall have the work at the reduced price of *two dollars* per annum.

4. All orders and communications for the work. to be directed to
J. ASHMUN, *Publisher*,
Pennsylvania Avenue.

Washington City, July, 1820.

Extract from the Minutes of the American Colonization Society.

Resolved, that the Society approve of the design proposed to them by Mr. Ashmun, to publish, in the City of Washington, an AFRICAN JOURNAL OR INTELLIGENCER; and, that they will readily avail themselves of the opportunity of making their communications to the public through that channel, in the full confidence that it will be conducted with discretion, and so as to promote the views of the Society.

Washington, July 20th, 1820.

